

Scoil Cholmcille Mount
Hanover
Newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the 2021/2022 Newsletter! This newsletter will be issued monthly. Once again, a very warm welcome is extended to the new pupils and their families! I hope that you all will be very happy here in Mount Hanover NS.

School Building Updates: During the summer holidays, the flat roof on the school building was replaced. Extra insulation was also added to the front of the building. Thank you to our architect, Keith Ludlow, and EcoTeam who carried out the works. The next step in the project will be to paint the rest of the school building. We are in the process of sourcing quotes for this work so if you know of any local companies, please let Ms. O'Loughlin know at mounthanoverns@gmail.com.

Parent Helpers: We are looking for some parent helpers here at Mount Hanover NS. We are especially looking for people to help out with the school garden. We are very lucky to have a fantastic school garden which has achieved a Level 4 certification in the Pride of Place competition. However, our school garden team urgently need parent volunteers. If you have time to donate to the school garden or have any other talents that you can give to the school (mural painting etc) please contact Ms. O'Loughlin at mounthanoverns@gmail.com All parent helpers will be Garda Vetted to ensure child protection compliance.

Assembly: Our September assembly took place today. Well done to the following certificate winners:

Pupil of the Month: Emilee Rose Crosby, Louis Mullen, Conor McGuinness, Katie McEnteggart, Emma Moore, Peter Crosby, Amber Devine, Johnny McGuinness, Amelia Maguire, Matthew Cudden, Enya McGuire, Jamie Breach, James Ryan, James Collins, Aimee Collins & Rhys Doyle.

Handwriting Awards: Hannah Pawlik-Stepien, Ellie Weldon, Petra Smyth, Alex McEnteggart, Holly Carroll, Isabella McArdle, Maisie Flood & Emma Cudden.

Gaeilgeoir na Míosa: Zack Mullen, Gracie Curley, TJ McGuinness, Seán Connell Cudden, Mollie Flood, Noah Devine, Annie Power & Eve Taylor.

School Attendance: Your child's attendance at school is very important for their progress. Please remember to message the teacher if your child is absent for whatever reason. We kindly ask that parents do not send their child to school if they are at all unwell or off form.

School Drop Off/Collection: Many thanks for your continued co-operation with our drop off and collection procedures. These are in place to ensure the safety of all our children. We ask for your continued support as it will mean that the numbers congregating at any one time will be minimised. Congestion will be eased if families adhere to these times and arrive at their appointed time. Please note that there is no play-time at collection times. Please ensure that you “collect & go.”

Thank You: Many thanks to Cllr. Elaine McGinty (Meath County Council) for her very generous donation of €1,500 to the school. This donation is from her discretionary funds and it will be used for digital technologies and library resources.

Uniform: Children should wear school tracksuit on **designated PE days only**. **Full school uniform should be worn on all other days. The Mount Hanover hoodies are not a part of the school uniform.**

Design-a-Card: Our school is participating in a unique fundraiser with www.designacard.ie Each child will get the opportunity to design their own Christmas card, a sample of which will be sent home giving you the option to purchase packs of cards or any of the optional extra Christmas gifts if you wish. Please note the following: Materials to be used by pupils are felt tip pens, coloured pencils, twistables or water-based paint only. Please do not use glitter or glue. The design is to be completed inside the square on the template. Any artwork outside that area will be lost. When the students are finished their designs please return them to the class teachers.

Templates are to be returned to the class teachers by Wednesday October 6th.

Healthy Eating: Please continue to pack a healthy lunch for your child. Fizzy drinks are not allowed in school. A copy of our “Healthy Eating Policy” can be found under the policies tab on the school website.

Nut Free Zone: Scoil Cholmcille is a “Nut Free Zone” as we have a student with a nut allergy. **We cannot allow children to bring any nut based products into school or in their packed lunches.** We ask that parents avoid giving children peanuts, peanut butter sandwiches, other spreads containing nuts such as Nutella and snacks/bars containing nuts or labelled “may contain nut traces” in school lunches. We also ask children **not** to share their lunches.

Birthday Invitations/Treats: The school encourages parents to be mindful of other children and their feelings if you are inviting a select few to a birthday party. If this is the case we ask that you distribute birthday invitations in private and outside of school. This is to avoid unnecessary upset to children. We also ask that you do not send treats/cakes into school to mark your child’s birthday as we cannot distribute them.

School Calendar Update: Please note that we will close for a **half day on Friday October 22nd** to facilitate staff training in the Primary Language Curriculum. There will be a staggered collection from **11.50 am**. Details as follows: Buses at 11.50 am. Infants & siblings at 11.55 am. 1st/2nd & siblings at 12.00pm. 3rd-6th at 12.05 pm.

Covid-19 & Contact Tracing: As you may be aware, the Department of Education has made major changes to the way in which Covid-19 cases are handled in schools.

From **Monday September 27th**, if the school is notified of a positive case of Covid-19, the following is the course of action for school based cases:

- The school will not contact the HSE or vice versa.
- No school contact tracing will be carried out.
- Pupils who, in the past, would have been considered as close contacts will not be asked to restrict their movements and can go to school as normal (providing they are symptom free).
- There will be no requirements for close contacts of a school based case to go for testing.
- All infection prevention and control measures, including pods and bubbles, will remain in place.
- Children who are identified, as **household close contacts** will still need to restrict their movements and get a COVID 19 test. A child is a household contact if they were present over-night, in the household of a COVID 19 case while the case was infectious. This may be in their own home or someone else's home for example children who may have been on sleepovers with family or friends.

The management of Covid-19 has now moved to a different phase, with more responsibility being placed on parents/guardians to be vigilant to the symptoms and to take swift and appropriate action. Additional information may be found here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/13610-information-for-parents-about-the-changes-to-contact-tracing-and-testing-for-children-aged-between-3-months-and-13-years-in-early-learning-and-care-elc-and-school-age-childcare-sac-education-primary-school-sports-and-social-settings/>

Please see this quick isolation guide for U-13's which has the latest up to date guidance:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/educationguidance/Isolation%20quick%20guide%20Under%2013s.pdf>

School Admissions: Please note the following dates for school admissions:

We will begin accepting applications for the 2022/2023 school year on **Monday October 4th**. The application period will remain open until **November 1st**. Applicants will be notified of the decision on their application by **November 29th**. Applicants then have until **December 13th** to accept the offer of admission. **Please note that this is for applications the 2022/2023 school year only.**

Please see our school website for further information and for application forms:

<https://mounthanoverns.ie/school-enrolment/?swcfpc=1>